

Appendix B. Early Action Review Processes and Plan or Project Review Application

B.1 Early Action Review Processes

Possible early actions should be considered under the framework of the adopted Interim Plan.

Priority for consideration should be given to early actions identified in SBX7 1 Part 2. "Early Actions" in Water Code sections 85080 through 85087 could be considered in September 2010.

Other possible early actions, including those recommended through public comments, should be screened against the legislative history criteria of urgency stated above. Those satisfying this screen could be considered in October and November 2010. Proposals received after November 1, 2010, may not be considered as "early actions." Additional early actions will be considered throughout the period of the Delta Plan preparation, at the discretion of the Council.

The Council should establish a two-member "early actions" committee to review identified possible early actions and make recommendations to the full Council (under Wat. Code § 85210(k)).

The Council committee should review possible early actions as identified and on the schedule in its work plan.

The early actions committee should consider possible early actions in public meetings, and should develop an agenda with designated time limits to ensure completing the reviews in the time allotted.

To promote efficient review of potential early actions, project proponents are strongly encouraged to complete the "Plan or project review application" (adopted by the council August 2010) and submit it to the council staff no less than thirty days (30) days before the committee meeting at which the item is scheduled, except that potential early actions scheduled for consideration in September 2010 may submit these materials no less twenty (20) days before the committee meeting at which the item is scheduled. If an application is deemed incomplete, the item will be removed from the agenda and may be rescheduled at the discretion of the council committee.

To promote efficient review of potential early actions, project proponents are strongly encouraged to submit materials electronically and also to deliver ten (10) hard copies to the Council offices.

Applications and related materials will be posted to the Council website.

Public comments on the application will be invited, with a deadline of ten (10) days before the scheduled committee hearing, and those comments will be posted to the Council website.

Each application would be reviewed by Council staff or consultants, and a brief cover memo prepared identifying issues of particular relevance.

Each application should be reviewed by the Delta Science Program staff to identify the adequacy of scientific information available to support a committee recommendation and Council action using the standard of "best available science" required in statute and specified in the Interim Plan. If they judge the available scientific information inadequate, they may make a recommendation for any needed

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1 additional scientific information. The committee would consider the Delta Science Program staff
2 comments in making its recommendation to the full Council.

3 The committee could make one of the following recommendations on possible early actions, conveying
4 its recommendation to the full Council in a brief report:

5 **No action at this time** (because _____)

6 **Additional information is needed** (and the item is rescheduled for _____, possibly not as an “early
7 action”)

8 **Recommend the Council provide a positive recommendation** (citing policy objectives advanced
9 _____)

10 **Recommend the Council provide a negative recommendation** (citing policy objectives harmed or in
11 conflict _____)

12 **Recommend modifications to proposal as follows** (_____)

13 **Refer for consideration under the Delta Plan** (_____)

14

B.2. Application Form for Consideration of a Plan or Project

The Delta Reform Act creates the Delta Stewardship Council (Council) as an independent agency of the state (Wat. Code §85200). SBX7 1 (effective February 3, 2010) gives the Council several responsibilities, many linked to a comprehensive "Delta Plan," which the Council is charged to develop, adopt, and commence implementation of by January 1, 2012. The Council is also charged with developing an Interim Plan "...that includes recommendations for early actions, projects, and programs" (Wat. Code § 85084). The Council has set August 27, 2010, as the date for adoption of the Interim Plan. The Council uses the framework established in the Interim Plan to make recommendations based on its responsibilities under SBX7 1. After the Delta Plan is adopted, the Council decisions will become determinative.

1. Applicant Information

Request: Consideration as an early action: Rural Levee Evaluations

Consultation re plan: _____

Consultation re: possible covered action: _____

Other (please specify): _____

Applicant Name:

Yolo County

Legal status (city, special district, firm, individual, etc.): County

Address of applicant:

625 Court Street, Suite 202, 95695

Contact information: Name of responsible individual:

Petrea Marchand

Role (officer, attorney, etc.): Manager of Intergovernmental Affairs

Address: 625 Court Street, Suite 202 95695

Email: petrea.marchand@yolocounty.org

Telephone: 530-666-8128

1 **Legally Responsible Entity Name (if different than Applicant):**

2 _____

3 Legal status (city, special district, firm, individual, etc.): _____

4 Address of applicant:

5 _____

6 Contact information: Name of responsible individual:

7 _____

8 Role (officer, attorney, etc.): _____

9 Address: _____

10 Email: _____

11 Telephone: _____

12 **Plan or project purpose narrative, including legal authority. If an action is “urgent,” provide the**
13 **rationale for urgency.**

14 Ensure adequate funding and other support for expeditious completion of the Department of Water Resource's (DWR) study of rural levees in the
15 Delta, as well as dissemination of that information. DWR has completed the Phase 1 investigative study of rural levees in the state,
16 including Delta levees, and has started Phase 2. Since rural areas are unlikely to receive significant funding for levee
17 improvements, local jurisdictions need better information about the condition of levees. Such information will allow local officials
18 to educate residents about flood risk and make decisions about priority levee improvement projects.

19 **Plan or project physical location and description (include geo-referencing latitude and longitude for**
20 **projects):**

21 The project is a study of levees in the Sacramento River Flood Control Project, including Delta levees.

23
24 **2. Plan or Project Review by Public Agencies**

25 **Local Government Discretionary Approval(s):**

26 Yes _____ No ☒ If yes, describe: _____

27 **Delta Protection Commission Consistency Approval(s):**

28 Yes _____ No ☒ If yes, describe: _____

29 **Bay Conservation and Development Commission Permit:**

30 Yes _____ No ☒ If yes, describe: _____

31 **State Lands Commission:**

32 Yes _____ No ☒

1 **CalTrans:**

2 Yes _____ No X

3 **State Water Resources Control Board Permit:**

4 Yes _____ No X

5 **Regional Water Quality Control Board:**

6 Yes _____ No X Regional Board Number: _____

7 **California Dept. of Toxic Substances Control:**

8 Yes _____ No X

9 **California Department of Fish and Game Streambed Alteration Permit:**

10 Yes _____ No X

11 **DF&G Take Authorization:**

12 Yes _____ No X

13 **Other DF&G Permit:**

14 Yes _____ No X

15 **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:**

16 Yes _____ No X Public Notice Number: _____

17 **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: Take Authorization**

18 Yes _____ No X

19 **Biological Opinion:**

20 Yes _____ No X

21 **NOAA Fisheries Service: Take Authorization**

22 Yes _____ No X

23 **Biological Opinion**

24 Yes _____ No X

25 **U.S. Coast Guard:**

1 Yes _____ No X

2 **Federal Funding:**

3 Yes _____ No X

4 **Describe any history of consideration by any other governmental agency and provide documentation**
5 **of any actions taken.**

6 _____
7 _____

8

9 **3. Environmental Impact Documentation (must be completed**
10 **by all applicants)**

11 **a. Is the project statutorily or categorically exempt from the need to prepare any environmental**
12 **documentation?**

13 Yes N/A No _____

14 If "Yes," please attach a statement that identifies and supports this statutory or categorical exemption.

15 **b. Has a government agency other than the Council, serving as the lead agency, adopted a negative**
16 **declaration or certified an environmental impact report or environmental impact statement on the**
17 **project?**

18 Yes N/A No _____

19 If "Yes," attach a copy of the document. If the environmental impact report or statement is longer than
20 ten pages, also provide a summary of up to ten pages. If "No," provide sufficient information to allow
21 the Council to make the necessary findings regarding all applicable policies. The certified document
22 must be submitted prior to action on the application.

23 **4. Assessment against Delta Reform Act Policy Objectives**

24 Assess the proposed plan or project against the eight policy objectives listed below which "the
25 legislature declares are inherent in the coequal goals for management of the Delta" (WC Section 85020).
26 Provide a brief summary for the rationale for each assessment and reference to any supporting
27 documentation (include URL links as appropriate).

28 **(a) Manage the Delta's water and environmental resources and the water resources of the state**
29 **over the long term.**

30 Positive X Negative _____ Neutral _____ Unknown _____ Not Applicable _____

31 **Rationale, magnitude of effect (if positive or negative) and documentation:**

32 The rural levee evaluations should provide important information about the condition of levees protecting
33 the state's water supply and critical habitat in the Delta.

(b) Protect and enhance the unique cultural, recreational, and agricultural values of the California Delta as an evolving place.

Positive ☒ Negative ☐ Neutral ☐ Unknown ☐ Not Applicable

Rationale, magnitude of effect (if positive or negative) and documentation:

The rural levee evaluations will provide information about the condition of levees protecting the Delta's agricultural, recreational, and cultural resources, including information necessary for new projects.

(c) Restore the Delta ecosystem, including its fisheries and wildlife, as the heart of a healthy estuary and wetland ecosystem.

Positive ☒ Negative ☐ Neutral ☐ Unknown ☐ Not Applicable

Rationale, magnitude of effect (if positive or negative) and documentation:

The rural levee evaluations will provide information important to decision-making related to new habitat restoration projects important to the Delta ecosystem.

(d) Promote statewide water conservation, water use efficiency, and sustainable water use.

Positive ☐ Negative ☐ Neutral ☒ Unknown ☐ Not Applicable

Rationale, magnitude of effect (if positive or negative) and documentation:

(e) Improve water quality to protect human health and the environment consistent with achieving water quality objectives in the Delta.

Positive ☐ Negative ☐ Neutral ☒ Unknown ☐ Not Applicable

Rationale, magnitude of effect (if positive or negative) and documentation:

(f) Improve the water conveyance system and expand statewide water storage.

Positive ☒ Negative ☐ Neutral ☐ Unknown ☐ Not Applicable

Rationale, magnitude of effect (if positive or negative) and documentation:

The rural levee evaluations will provide information about the need to improve levees to protect the water conveyance system.

(g) Reduce risks to people, property, and state interests in the Delta by effective emergency preparedness, appropriate land uses, and investments in flood protection.

Positive ☒ Negative ☐ Neutral ☐ Unknown ☐ Not Applicable

Rationale, magnitude of effect (if positive or negative) and documentation:

The rural levee evaluations will help reduce risks to people, property, and state interests by providing better information than exists today about the condition of levees in the Delta.

(h) Establish a new governance structure with the authority, responsibility, accountability, scientific support, and adequate and secure funding to achieve these objectives.

Positive _____ Negative _____ Neutral X _____ Unknown _____ Not Applicable
 _____ Rationale, magnitude of effect (if positive or negative) and documentation:

5. Assessment of Administration and Implementation Processes

Cost of Project/Plan: Please provide your best estimate of the total cost of the project or plan you are proposing. If this is a Plan, please provide an estimate of the annual operational or enforcement costs projected for the activity. Please list all sources used for developing the cost estimates

DWR is responsible for the project and therefore is the best source of information regarding the costs.

Financing (provide information on public and private sources of funding, including funds on hand or legally pledged or obligated and the sources of those funds):

DWR is using funding from Proposition IE for the studies. It is unclear whether they have sufficient funding to complete the evaluations in a timely manner or have been allocated funding for adequate information dissemination to local agencies.

Identify any public agencies (federal, state and local) whose actions or decisions are essential for the proposed action to succeed. Provide evidence of their approval and support of the proposed action:

DWR is the lead agency on the rural levee evaluations, but all five Delta counties and the California Emergency Management Agency are also essential to any effort to disseminate information to residents in the Delta or other parties affected by flood risk.

If real property must be acquired or use altered for the success of the proposed action, identify the owners of that property and information on how ownership or use change will occur:

N/A

Provide a time line for the proposed plan or project, including major milestones through completion:

DWR is the best source of information regarding the timeline.

Describe how success or failure of the plan or project will be determined, including measures proposed, time frame and public agency responsible for judging success:

Success could be measured in an increased number of residents who purchase flood insurance and a carefully selected set of Delta levee projects for the Water Resources Development Act, which Congress is expected to re-authorize next year.

Describe the major benefits that can result from the proposed plan or project, including identification of beneficiaries and any information on the magnitude and timing of benefits received:

The faster information about Delta levees is available, the faster local agencies and disseminate information about flood risk. Also, Congress is expected to re-authorize the Water Resources Development Act next year and this information will help counties prioritize levee projects.

If the proposed plan or project fails, what is done? What additional costs could be incurred and how will they be financed? Identify any lasting effects or changed options for future policy making:

If the levee evaluations are not adequately completed or the information is not effectively disseminated, fewer people will sign up for flood insurance and local agencies will have less information with which to prioritize levee improvements.

6. Scientific justification (to address requirement for Council use of best available science, Water Code section 85302(g)):

Attach description of scientific justification for the proposed plan or project and provide any pertinent documents. Address the criteria identified in Section 3 when preparing the scientific justification. Provide complete list of all scientific references cited.

7. Applicant certifications and authorizations

I certify that all of the information submitted is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge and that all attached exhibits are full, complete and correct. I certify that I understand that omitted or insufficient information can delay consideration of this application. I certify that this application is not complete until accepted by the Council at a regularly scheduled meeting. I authorize the Council, its staff or other authorized personnel to share this information publicly and authorize their collection of additional information relevant to this application.

Petrea R. Marchand October 5, 2010

Signature of applicant or applicant's representative

Date

Printed name: Petrea R. Marchand

Title: Manager of Intergovernmental Affairs